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Executive Registry
72-5189

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OKC 72-1054

September 28, 1972

SECRET/SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Special Operations Report of Progress

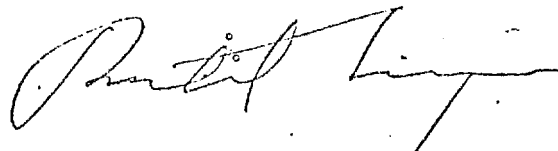
I appreciate your efforts, as expressed in your memorandum of 16 September, to find ways to conduct our programs in Laos within the \$375 million FY-1973 ceiling set by Congress. I certainly share your view that we must treat this ceiling as a serious matter.

However, I am convinced that we cannot forego undertaking any reasonable steps to make certain that Laos is well prepared and able to meet the possible enemy threat against Laos in the coming months. Therefore, I request that you do not foreclose now the possibility of moving to support [REDACTED] once the existing units are filled out and replacements to keep them up to 80% strength are assured.

25X6

NSC

In the meantime, I am sure that you will do whatever you can to find ways to make economies that will not in any way diminish our ability to provide the assistance which the Government will need to successfully defend against enemy attack during the coming year.



COPY FOR DIRECTOR HELMS

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SIS/DECLASS/12-31-80

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
Richard Helms, DCI			29/9/72
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